

ARCHAEOLOGY of OREGON

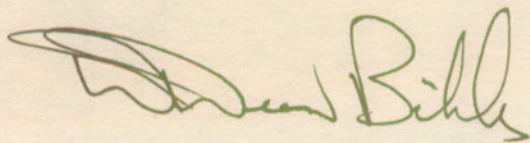
by:
C. Melvin Aikens

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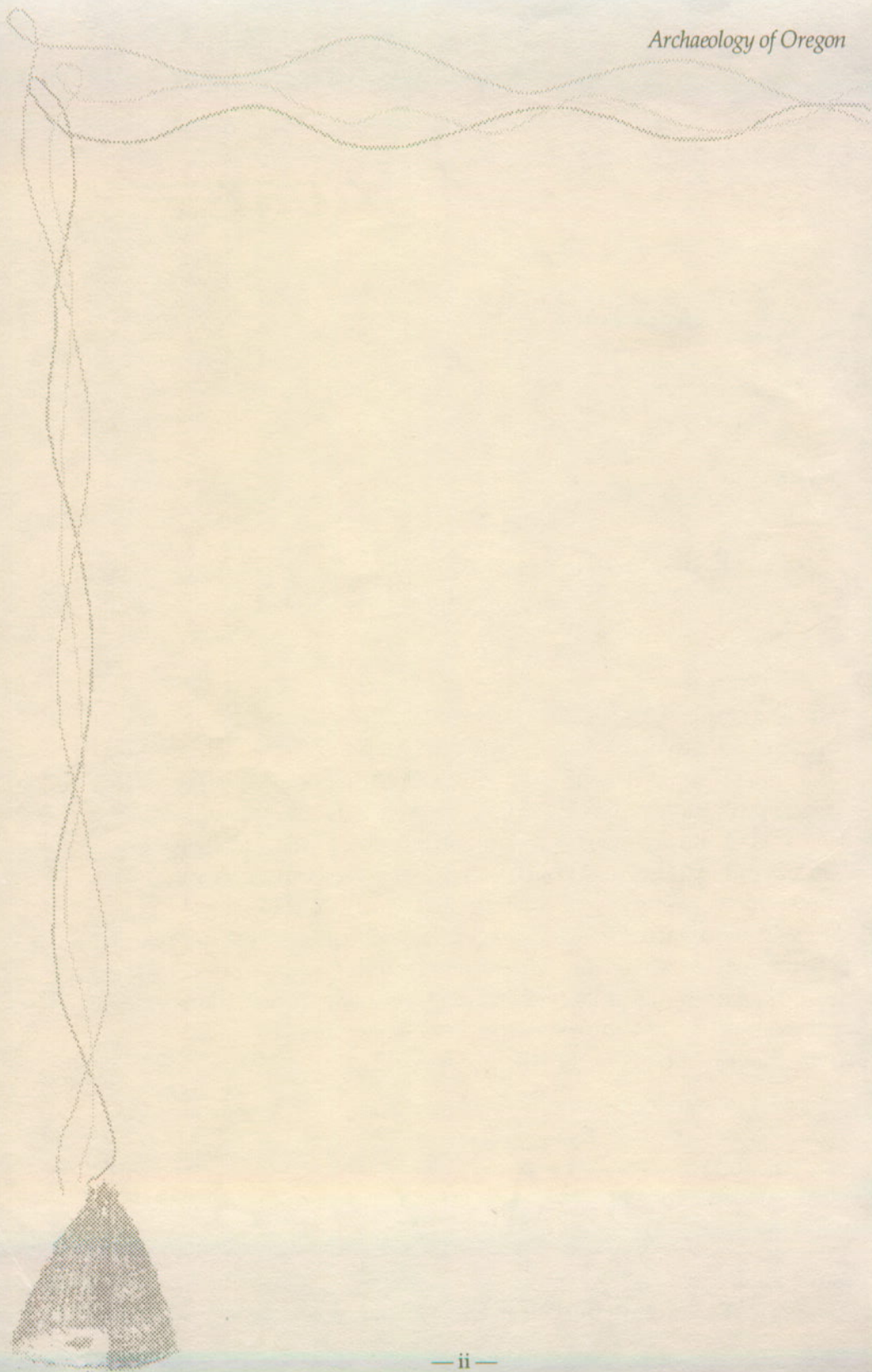
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Oregon State Office
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Forward

The Bureau of Land Management State Office is proud to present *Archaeology of Oregon* by Dr. C. Melvin Aikens. This volume presents a synthesis of the information available concerning the prehistory of Oregon. Dr. Aikens, through analysis of the archaeological and anthropological data, has added the insights and conclusions that have come to him through twenty years of concentrated study of the subject area. The Bureau of Land Management publishes this study as a part of its "Adventures in the Past" public outreach effort and in recognition of its responsibility to make information gained through its Cultural Resources Management Program available to scholars and to the general public.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bill", with a stylized flourish to the left.

State Director
Oregon/Washington Bureau of Land Management



Preface

The Northern Great Basin, the Columbia Plateau, the Pacific Coast and Lower Columbia, the Willamette Valley, the Southwestern Mountains: these Oregon environments have been explored and their resources used by various peoples for at least the last 12,000 years. The evidence of that use has been painstakingly collected by archaeologists and historians, and their descriptions of past lifestyles based upon that evidence and considerable information provided by present day native Americans have been published in hundreds of different articles, monographs and books. Anyone wishing to learn about the prehistory and/or history of any particular area within the State can find at least some of the relevant information without the expenditure of a very great amount of time and energy.

The present work was written to provide the reader a broad vista of the various major cultures of Oregon in a single volume. Readers who are sufficiently intrigued can fill in the details for any area from the more specific publications listed in the bibliography.

Several perspectives on Oregon prehistory may be offered. Certainly one of the most valuable is by native Americans themselves. Descriptions of Oregon's traditional cultures provided by direct descendants are now gaining increased availability to the public in today's literature, such as *The First Oregonians* recently published by the Oregon Council for the Humanities. As is apparent, this book is predominantly derived from scientific investigations of the archaeological record conducted over the past 60 years. Interpretations provided by ethnohistories, ethnographies, and archaeological studies each add to preserving the richness and diversity of our region's cultural traditions.

A major goal in archaeology is to document the differing adaptations that groups have made to the various environments over a lengthy time period. To this goal, each chapter is organized utilizing the same themes. Thus attention is drawn, for example, to the reliance on salmon in the Columbia Gorge versus the use of roots, seeds, and small game in the Northern Great Basin. Such differences must not obscure, however, the fact that there is a fundamental similarity in the broad utilization of available resources and in the resulting annual movement from lowland to upland and return. It is useful to observe that the same broad organizing principle is found to some degree in all non-horticultural groups to the extent that they are free from certain constraints. Inferences are also drawn, whenever possible, about the changes in lifestyles that occurred through time. The lack of major, clearly defined changes within narrow time spans is a hallmark of Great Basin, western Oregon, and Plateau cultures and represents only one of a few cases where both culture and environment have remained stable over a period of several thousand years. Such stability in culture has and will continue to evoke considerable scientific interest.

Richard C. Hanes

Acknowledgements

I thank Y. T. (Jack) Witherspoon for his sense of mission and for generating the ongoing support of the Bureau of Land Management Cultural Resources Program that led originally to the writing of *Archaeology of Oregon*. I thank Richard C. Hanes, Jack's successor as director of this program, for his continuing encouragement and support in the completion of this third edition. Many other BLM staffers deserve thanks as well. Phil Carroll and Don Smurthwaite made all but a few of the original photographs. new photographs for the second edition were made by Gary Haase, who was responsible for graphic design and art direction. Haase also directed the production of this third edition. Wyndeth Moisen and Steve Hurst each contributed several illustrations and Kathy Helms meticulously reviewed an early draft. Michael Hamel provided considerable computer expertise in the typesetting of this edition.

Most of the archaeological specimens illustrated in the book come from the collections of the Oregon State Museum of Anthropology, on the University of Oregon campus. Don E. Dumond, OSMA Director, gave permission to photograph

the specimens and made available the facilities of the museum for the project. Martha Frankel and Pamela Endzweig pulled the many specimens together for photographing, and returned them to safekeeping when the job was done. Richard E. Ross and David R. Brauner of Oregon State University made available for photography the specimens illustrated in figures 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, and 6.6. William G. Loy, University of Oregon Department of Geography, generously permitted and collaborated in the adaption of figures 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 3.1, 4.1, 5.1, and 6.1 from maps originally published under his editorship in the *Atlas of Oregon*. The contributors of other illustrations are acknowledged in text captions. The University of Oregon made it possible for me to undertake the writing of this book as part of its overall teaching and research mission, through the continuing support of its Department of Anthropology and Museum of Natural History.

C. Melvin Aikens